

Fact Sheet on the AT Act of 1998 as reauthorized in 2004

What will the Advisory Board look like?

- Board membership must include representatives from: DVR, the Workforce Investment Board, DHFS/Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the ILCs, and the DPI.
- People with disabilities on the board must comprise 51 percent required by the law.
- Representatives on the Board can either be a consumer representative or a professional representative as required by law. A person cannot formally act in both capacities.
- In Wisconsin, guidelines for consumer membership on the advisory board (such as term length, recruitment efforts, etc.) will be decided by the AT Committee, a body of the Governor's Council on Physical Disabilities.

How is an application for funding submitted?

- Each State's Lead Agency is responsible for submitting an application for funding. In Wisconsin, this is the Department of Health and Family Services.
- The application will be developed as a three-year "State Plan for AT" (SPAT).
- Measurable goals set forth in the SPAT must fall into the following categories: education, employment, VR, community living, IT and telecom.
- The funding must supplement, not supplant, the responsibilities of other state agencies (e.g. DPI and DVR).

What will the new program look like?

The law outlines two kinds of activities that must be conducted: State Level Activities and State Leadership Activities.

State Level Activities include:

- Financing Activities – The program must demonstrate a systematic way of reducing the cost barrier for consumers.
- Device Reutilization – a statewide device recycling program.
- Device Loan Program – a statewide equipment loan program.
- Device Demonstration Program – a statewide demonstration of equipment and services.

All of the State Leadership Activities are required under the law. These include:

- Training and technical assistance
- Information and referral
- Transition assistance
- Collaboration and coordination
- Public awareness

How is the funding split up under the law?

- If a State chooses to do two or more of the four State Level Activities, they must dedicate at least 70 percent of their award to those activities and no more than 30 percent to State Leadership Activities, of which 5 percent must be dedicated to transition activities.
- If a State chooses to do all four of the State Level Activities, they must dedicate at least 60 percent of their funds to those activities and no more than 40 percent to State Leadership Activities, of which 5 percent must be dedicated to transition activities.